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FILE IS NO. 5

"A MESSAGE"

THE LIFE BLOOD OF THE NATION! INDUSTRY, STEAM, & ELECTRICITY

Have enabled "far sighted men" whose credit or means would permit, to become the promoters of most gigantic enterprises during the nineteenth century, but "Clinton's big ditch" as the Erie canal was named when in process of building, in 1817, preceded them all, and through the opening up of a connection with the interior which it accomplished made possible and feasible those later allied aids such as the NEW YORK CENTRAL, causing the city of New York to become the metropolis of the country. Railroads have been a most important factor in developing the wonderful resources & civilization in America, yet how sad the reflection that it has been built at the expense of many white hairs, yea, and wrinkled foreheads, amongst those noble souls who have gone forth as pioneers in R.R. construction.

As is evidenced by some recent showings, in eleven states of the Union, the earnings are insufficient for to keep the roads in safe condition and pay interest on cost of construction.

What a testimony to the disinterestedness of promoters!

THIS IS
NOT A MESSAGE TO GARCIA
Being A RAG BABY
MADE from Old Cotton
WADDING

BY J A AMBLER.



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by
J A Ambler



I saw a poor, shiftless sort of a fellow drifting about in loose & disorderly condition, with rags quite worn out, and learned after that his wife and children were in want of bread, and there was not a soul thought of sending him on with a message to Garcia.

The Cuban business is not my subject.

But the Cuban business cannot be made pertinent to my theme, so we will say no more about that.

A friend had a coachman who, owing to lack of steady occupation, formed very leisurely habits; thus came about importunent with his employer to grant him a vacation. "I should think," said his employer, "that you have been having a vacation for all the past four or five years."

The man wanted a vacation.

The coachman was a trifle discouraged, but not to relinquish a purpose so desirable without further effort, he persevered, and by sly hints managed each day to refresh the mind of his employer until at last, seeing the man was so dead in earnest, he gave him a vacation, - and a long one.

And got one.

This was the shiftless man saw we on the street.

But there is a nice point to this little narrative which I wish to elucidate, if you will permit me:

THE point The employer was a little man, and exercised his right to replace his coachman with one who could better appreciate the privileges which a position so easy afforded.

The coachman Zounds man! you should have thought twice, before you importuned your employer so hard. You would make no sort of a figure in bronze fit to adorn college halls; you deserved to be crucified and laid away in a dark closet, to frighten lazy boys into better manners than your own.

My friend easily found a coachman who was efficient; for all men are not shiftless, nor lazy,--nor are they usually such imbeciles as to be incapable of appreciating rare opportunities;--nor does it seldom happen that the mans capabilities exceed those of his employer, barring the faculty to make money to accumulate in his own hands, which is equal to saying that he thinketh of his employers interests to the exclusion of his own, knowing that if he fails in this respect, if he is indifferent, or is half-hearted his employer, like my friend whom I have taken pains to mention, will

give him a "vacation."

It is an old saying that "it is the early bird that catches the worm" but my friend says that "it is good enough for the worm; he had no right to get up so early." Now perhaps "coachie" was one of the shrewd ones who gazed at the subject that way. But worms do sometimes get up too early,--sure.

I once knew a man who failed, owing a poor tradesman several hundred dollars. He afterwards became quite wealthy, and when the poor tradesman solicited a small payment, he threw him a five dollar note where he was standing--upon his crutches. I stooped and picked up and handed to him. He thanked me, but not the giver. This was one of those whose hair grows white, wearing out his energies in the endeavor to get eleven hours toil for ten. The other day I heard of his failure for eighty thousand, owing, I was told, to his speculating on margins.

I leave it to you, if those angels of light who promote the welfare of those whom they go & employ.,

The
worm
got
up too

early

? making the "thorn" of labor "bear
 ? the rose upon its top" are not 2
 ? blane for breeding a discontent
 ? among less favored workers. True.
 ? it gives an impetus to the town
 ? in which it thrives, perhaps too
 ? it beautifies homes, developeth
 ? tidy lawns, grows arbors & vines
 ? in waste places, and some call
 ? it a living testimony to the in
 ? telligence and noble(?) philanth
 ? ropy of him who through so wise,
 ? inexpensive, and beneficent ye
 ? system has wrought it all.

Who has ever seen such cases?
 Were such workers so treated is
 it to be expected they will not
 be puffed up? What wonder, when
 such are requested to serve, the
 dallying and half-heartedness b
 comes tedious? How can loyalty,
 or celerity be expected? Would
 not the man stop on the way for
 to lay you one to ten, if a "Law
 of Average" was on his side?

Save Yet some men are such dolts as
 the to employ people who dally, and
 bother ask questions, so as to make the
 & thing easier for the employer to
 fret do it himself. Why not dispense 2
 with the assistant and save the
 bother. There is a thought for U

It may be he will be confronted with the problem of geometrical-ly multiplying hands and brain but if he "gets there" it will be so much easier, dont you know, than to submit to all the indignities which caused his hair to whiten when he employed "assistants" not "worthy of their meat." *****

Law

The law of force never was any sort of a success. Think of some poor cur, whipped about by his employe's: wearing out his life in simply courting their ingratitude and indifference to his interests! How can he be expected to have the manly courage to perform great, & noble tasks: how, for instance, so stimulate his brain as to produce correct epistles when his stenographer canna' spell nor punctuate? I know of no way to escape such dilemma but to ask the stenographer if she(?) can spell, --or punctuate before engaging or else putting one to actual test. Both of these R, as a matter of course embarrassing; but think of the trouble it may save.

of
force
never
a
howl-
ing
suc
cess

Always
best
to
ask
before
taking
any-
thing

And after all, I suppose it must be said to be better to employ some labor, because but few of us have become adepts in all lines of employment, even so simple a one as

Not
all
adepts

that of a stenographer. *****
 I presume one ought to qualify himself for all varieties of service, for here again, the employer is handicapped. Suppose that the book-keeper is wanted to go on an errand, - split some peices of wood to kindle a dinner fire for the family, or dig some potatoes, or beets; would he perform the task intelligently, and with proper despatch? far more likely would he be to turn & stigmatize ungratefully the noble old soul who gave him employment, notwithstanding the latter pays taxes, - or does he? May I halt & scratch my head a bit, for this is a perplexing question which I had not fully solved. Who does really & truly pay the taxes, anyhow? Let us not fasten this jag upon the employer in this chapter, not yet. What with the constant watch necessary upon the workmen to prevent robbery in labor, keeping an eye over the shoulder & see what spots need "weeding out" and a hundred other things, equally as important, it is a fact that the government that guarantees protection should B the last & press

that most vexing of all burdens on him in a way impossible to evade, or shift upon the workman.

But some employers "weed" rarely except for one strong cause, holding to the old-time notion that the best efficiency is attained, or is likely to be, from experience and so retain their help, who thus grow proficient. Now such a method breeds knowledge in these workers minds that they can perform better service than others & hence more necessary to their employer, & the natural lead from such course is toward promotion. How common the spectacle of a superintendent in large industrial plants who has really been elevated from the rank of the workman, worse still, to ponder that within important & representative industries exhibiting such a spectacle there are "more to follow", Is it well to have such imbeciles, such dolts, promoted half-hearted?

Why don't such corporations fail, and get out of the way? Yet they seem to prosper! Follow the principle to its limit & see where we shall arrive.***** Horny handed sons of toil filling the place of

Insane!
folly!
of
some
employ-
ers

More
to
follow

Horny
hand-
ed
sons
on top

Danger
of
social
ism

present industrial promoters, yea, inviting broad cooperation of all the rest, till the prudential barriers now existing between capital and labor are entirely swept away and we have a species of socialism in place of the present decent order of society. Are U not ashamed of yourselves, oh ye Carnegies, ye Draper's, and all who recklessly promote the interests & foster ye dignity of labor?

Some of these bold promoters U know, lay claim to having lugged the dinner pail themselves,—they assert from this former experience that espionage which whitens the hair of the employer is na' dignified or even profitable, and very strange to say, they who are so revolutionary in attitude are mostly men past the middle life.

Symptom of second childhood? Surely there's not overmuch of the young blood of the nation so peculiarly affected! & the weakness seems to develop only through experience, which appears to breed kinship betwixt ye interests of ye employer & those of his workmen. Is't not appalling to think of trusting every man in your em-

Is
it
not
appal-
ling

ploy, exercising good will, inspiring hopes of advancement: encouraging independence and feelings of equality, promoting book learning, inculcating practical ethics in a business & social life, -in short, obliterating the lines so that it is no longer easy to distinguish between master and servant except by the extremely soft sentiment of love? Are traditions of so little worth that such innovations R to go on unchecked?

At such a rate, society will lack for rags. Who says rags are no recommendation? Do not the majoritie of men wear them all their days? A fashion so time honored as this is not to be despised, and if all who are priveleged to wear them R not virtuous they ought to be, for abstinence is replete with that noble quality. Do these revolutionary promoters of industry intend to deprive their helpers of rags?

Yet there is a word to be said even in behalf of these ruthless innovators of ancient usage & custom. Do we not sometimes allow ourselves to feel better when we see the army of toilers more civilly &

Society may lack for rags

A word for the under dog

conveniently equipped in person & in home, if they are a little inflated thereby. And the employer who enhances the pleasures & the creates opportunities for better-

ing the condition of his workers has my good wishes, at least, with the hope that they will reciprocate by zeal and faithfulness to each duty as it appears. ****

Give every man a "bill of particulars" in the shape of a good education for a century, and let's see if civilization will suffer.

So I am going to allow

this order of industrial promoters

to swing

around this

goblet be

cause a

few workers

sa

they're

needed,

& needed badly,--these

promoters who will appreciate & encourage good servants.

If you want to read something more amplified upon the subject here treated, send to me for my work entitled "Evolution in Economics" price ONE DOLLAR & FIFTY CENTS, printed even more poorly than this, and having 300 full pages.

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Labor, that venerable character whose birth was so nearly coincident with the creation, whose silvered hair and whose wrinkled brow bear mournful evidence of the prolonged mental and physical struggles through which he has passed, yet who has endured through the ages, emerging with many a battle scar, with eyes still bright and upright form, and with gigantic tread which shakes the universe as he marches on to fulfil his destiny.

Never a government was formed on earth but his was the hand that fashioned and put together the superstructure on which it rested, traced every line and curve in its architectural beauty and strength, and surmounted all with the spire that reaches heavenward. *****

Such is the dignity, the sublime grandeur of labor, the patriarch of the ages, the embodiment of all virtue, all happiness through prosperity, holding within his hand the destinies of all nations and peo-

bles, powerful in his might to bless or to curse, to whom all material blessings are due, yet he is subordinated to monarch, to prince, and aquire; to wealth, and splendor, Church and State, school and college, and all that creates the prosperity of mankind, and forbears to strike -- with his mighty hand.

What sublime patience and heroism: what magnificent virtue is this, that with power inferior to none but the Omnipotent, endures struggle, poverty and rags, hunger, cold, and indignity, together with the vicissitudes of sickness and still hopes on, never doubting the advent of a brighter day and generation. Yet while his heroism may never die, while virtue may strengthen and grow with every advancing step of progress in the upward march toward the heights, whereon sits the great arbiter, with the powerful strides of evolution on--marching by his side, teaching him more plainly --with every step that his is the only material power, what wonder if he finally arouses from his lethargy and subordination and becomes the general who leads man to his highest achievement. *****

JUN 9 1900

When the first great edition of this booklet appeared in London there was not a single copy over to send to America, "and so the poor dog had none."

Rather near to fabrication., Will Discerning ones Note the margin?

But when I was besieged, not by one, neither a score, nor even by hundred of scholars, statesmen of repute, sharp financiers and business men, together with clergymen and philanthropists, to circulate my rag baby on this side of the stream, how could I refuse, especially as the subscriptions were pouring in so plentifully that I had either to greatly enlarge my waste basket, or else place them on file. Is it any wonder if I at last yield to the pressure ** of public opinion and reproduce **? Do not for a moment imagine that I am actuated by any other motive than philanthropy.

Does money count much, anyhow?

This page comes dangerously near to fabrication, but it is hoped that the "Discerning ones" will be able to discriminate.



This little booklet is made up through the process of copying from a prepared stencil sheet written upon the common typewriter, the impressions being made upon the AMBLER MYRIAGRAPH, by which means 2000 good impressions can

be made without inking; the pad being ~~reusable~~ ~~reusable~~ ~~reusable~~ quantity without leaking, to do the work.